

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 PRS-01 SS-15 INR-07 PCH-02 PM-03

RSC-01 /052 R

DRAFTED BY EA/P:STAFF:PP

APPROVED BY EA/P:MSMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TRSY

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO USSAGE NKP

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST BY POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 24 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

IN NBC-TV INTERVIEW THURS NIGHT, PRES PUSHED HARD FOR 300
MILLION DOL MIL SVN AID REQUEST. SAID AMB MARTIN ASSURED
HIM SAIGON WOULD BE "OVER THE HUMP MILITARILY AND ECONOMI-
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CALLY" IF ADEQUATE AID IS GIVEN IN TWO OR THREE YEARS;
COMMENTED THAT "WE'VE BEEN TOLD THAT BEFORE."
CHARGED HANOI WITH TOTAL DISREGARD OF C-F, AND SAID
SOUTH VIETS "DESERVE SOME HELP" (UPI, GLOBE).

US AND KHMER SOURCES SAY PRES WILL SEEK 220 MILLION DOLS IN EXTRA ARMS AID FOR GKR (WSJ). REQUEST WILL ACCOMPANY PRES' MOVE TO GET 300 MILLION DOL SVN SUPPLEMENTAL, ACCORDING ADMIN OFFICIALS. REQUESTS EXPECTED TO FACE STRONG OPPOSITION IN CONGRESS. SEN MANSFIELD SAYS IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO GET FURTHER AID FOR SVN AND CAMBODIA (WP; NYDN; UPI PHINQ, GLOBE).

IN RADIO HANOI BROADCAST, NVN MFA CRITICIZED PRES' EFFORTS TO HAVE CONGRESS INCREASE GVN AID. SPOKESMAN SAID FORD'S STATEMENTS ARE "COMPLETELY AT VARIANCE WITH THE SPIRIT AND LETTER" OF C-F (AP, WP).

PP SHIPPING OFFICIALS SAY REBEL FIRE FORCED REST OF MEKONG CONVOY TO TURN BACK AFTER TWO TUG-PULLED AMMO BARGES REACHED CITY (UPI BALTO N-A 1/23, PHINQ). TWO SANDBAG-COVERED BARGES REACHED PP DESPITE REBEL FIRE (NYT; UPI, GLOBE; AP S-N 1/23, SUN). CONVOY ARRIVAL RAISED MORALE IN PP. DESPITE PROTECTIVE COVER, EIGHT OTHER BARGES LADEN WITH FOOD AND FUEL TURNED BACK TO SVN. US OFFICIALS PRESS GKR COMMAND TO USE AMMO TO LAUNCH OPERATION TO CLEAR REBELS FROM MEKONG BANKS SO FOOD AND FUEL CAN BE BROUGHT IN (UPI, GLOBE). CREWS ON SOME CONVOY VESSELS REPORTEDLY REFUSED GO TO PP, SO BOATS REMAINED IN SVN WATERS (WP).

WP'S FENTON IN PP DESCRIBED ARRIVAL OF TWO AMMO BARGES; SAYS US EMBASSY OFFICIAL STATED IT WAS BOOST TO MORALE, BUT LITTLE EVIDENCE THIS VIEW SHARED BY PUBLIC AT LARGE. QUOTES FANK SOLDIERS THAT IF BARGES DIDN'T GET THROUGH, CAPITAL COULD BE SUPPLIED BY PLANES, OR FANK COULD REOPEN ROAD TO SEA, OR THAIS AND VIETS COULD REOPEN ROAD. FENTON NOTES LITTLE COMMITMENT TO WAR IN LOWER RANKS, AND CRITICISM THAT US ARMS ARE LIKE GIVING SOMEONE KNIFE "TO KILL HIS BROTHER." SAYS NO SIGN SINCE LAST SUMMER OF ARTICULATE, ORGANIZED MOVEMENT AGAINST WAR. UNCLASSIFIED

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SEES SHORTAGES OF TROOPS IN CAPITAL AS SIGN OF PEOPLE'S RELUCTANCE TO FIGHT; ADDS THAT LON NOL RECENTLY OFFERED SHORT-TERM PRISONERS ENLISTMENT IN ARMY TO EASE MANPOWER PROBLEM.

PP AIRPORT CLOSED TO MOST SUPPLY FLIGHTS BECAUSE OF ROCKET ATTACKS (WSJ). ONLY US AND KHMER PLANES FLYING IN SUPPLIES DARE USE POCHENTONG; ALL OTHER FLIGHTS SUSPENDED BECAUSE OF CONSTANT ROCKETING (UPI PHINQ, GLOBE; WP).

HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUES TWO MILES FROM PP ON MEKONG EAST BANK. FIVE KILLED BY INSURGENT ROCKETS FIRED INTO

AIRPORT AND CITY (NYT). TERRORIST IN PP THREW PLASTIC EXPLOSIVE AT GKR OFFICIAL'S MOTORCADE BUT MISSED AND KILLED TWO WOMEN, ACCORDING AMCIT WITNESS. EXPLOSION WAS FIRST TERRORIST INCIDENT IN CAPITAL IN SEVERAL MONTHS (AP, SUN).

GVN HELICOPTERS DROP TROOPS ON MOUNTAIN NEAR TAY NINH TO TRY RETAKE OUTPOST CAPTURED BY NVA (WSJ; AP NYT, SUN, WP). SOME CHOPPERS REPORTED UNABLE TO LAND DUE TO INTENSE AA FIRE, THOUGH NONE REPORTED SHOT DOWN. VC GUNNERS FIRED SIX ROCKETS INTO TAY NINH JUST PRIOR TO ASSAULT ON BLACK VIRGIN MOUNTAIN, KILLED FIVE (AP).

TERRORIST BOMB DESTROYED POLICE STATION IN SAIGON. COMMUNIST GUNNERS SHELLED THREE DISTRICT TOWNS TO SOUTH AND WEST OF CAPITAL, WHILE ARTILLERY STRUCK PHU BAI AIRPORT NEAR HUE (UPI, GLOBE).

2. JAPAN

JOC'S CULLISON IN TOKYO REPORTS YEUTTER TELLING FOREIGN PRESS CLUB THURSDAY OF EFFORTS TO PERSUADE GOJ TO UP FOOD IMPORTS TO FIVE BILLION DOLS, ESTABLISH STOCKPILE GRADUALLY OVER NEXT FEW YEARS. YEUTTER NOTED LOWER COST BENEFIT OF STORING FOOD IN US, AND DE-EMPHASIZED PROBABILITY OF FUTURE US GRAIN EMBARGO; BUT SAID IF THIS SHOULD HAPPEN, LONG-TERM CONTRACTS WOULD GET HIGHER PRIORITY CONSIDERATION THAN SHORT-UNCLASSIFIED

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TERM.

TREASURY ANNOUNCES INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBLE DUMPING OF CERTAIN BATTERIES BY JAPAN. IMPORTS LAST YEAR VALUED AT FOUR MILLION DOLS (UPI, NYT).

SUN'S SEIDEN IN TOKYO REPORTS OHIRA TELLING DIET COMMITTEE THURSDAY THAT "SOME MISTAKES AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF TAX RULES" HAVE BEEN FOUND IN CHECKING TANAKA'S INCOME TAX RETURNS FOR PAST FIVE YEARS. IN SAME COMMITTEE, TAX OFFICE OFFICIAL, IN FIRST PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF INVESTIGATION, SAID TANAKA WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO PAY CONSIDERABLE BACK TAXES WHEN INVESTIGATION COMPLETE, BUT NOT LIKELY TO FACE ADDITIONAL LEGAL PENALTY.

WSJ (TOKYO) NOTES SONY REPORT THAT EARNINGS SAGGED 20 PERCENT IN FISCAL FOURTH QUARTER ENDING OCT 31, STEEPER DECLINE EXPECTED IN FIRST QUARTER. DESPITE RISING SALES, SONY COMPLAINS HIGHER COSTS, GOJ PRICE RESTRAINTS EAT INTO PROFITS.

LAT'S JAMESON IN TOKYO (1/23) SAYS MIN ED NAGAI TOLD FOREIGN PRESS CLUB WEDNESDAY JAPANESE HAVE DIFFICULTY COMMUNICATING WITH FOREIGNERS BECAUSE THEY DO NOT COMMUNICATE WELL AMONG SELVES. FRAGILE "HORIZONTAL LINKS" CAUSE "DISCOMMUNICATION" WHICH PLAGUES JAPANESE SOCIETY, BUT NAGAI SAID JAPANESE LESS INSULAR THAN THEY APPEAR; SUGGESTED JAPANESE WOULD BE BEST SINGLE LANGUAGE THROUGH WHICH TO ABSORB MOST WORLD CULTURES, BECAUSE ALL MAJOR WORKS HAVE BEEN TRANSLATED INTO IT. BUT NAGAI WANTS TO CHANGE "ONE-WAY COMMUNICATION HABIT."

JOC'S CULLISON, IN SECOND OF TWO-PART SERIES ON JAPANESE AUTO INDUSTRY, NOTES DISAGREEMENT ABOUT EXPORT PROSPECTS IN FACE OF DETERIORATING BOP POSITION OF IMPORTING NATIONS. SAYS NISSAN, TOYOTA FORECAST 10 PERCENT DECLINE IN EXPORTS THIS YEAR. ADDS FEAR ABOUT FUTURE HAS LED THEM TO DIVERSIFY -- NISSAN INTO LEISURE INDUSTRY, TOYOTA INTO HEAVY MACHINERY.

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3. KOREA

CSM (SAN FRANCISCO) REPORTS NDP LEADER KIM YOUNG SAM CUT SHORT TWO-WEEK US VISIT TO RETURN TO SK TO LEAD BOYCOTT AGAINST REFERENDUM HE CALLS "ILLEGAL SILENT COUP." KIM TOLD PRESS REFERENDUM AIMED TO SABOTAGE HIS PLANNED MEETINGS WITH HAK, CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS, AND LACK OF SAFEGUARDS AGAINST VOTING IRREGULARITIES MAKE IT "POINTLESS." KIM CLAIMED TO ENJOY INCREASING SUPPORT WITHIN ROK ARMY, CAUTIONED CIVIL WAR "POSSIBLE."

WP (SEOUL) NOTES NK RESUMED HOSTILE PROPAGANDA BROADCASTS THURSDAY, VIOLATING 1972 AGREEMENT NOT TO DO SO DURING N-S TALKS. LOUDSPEAKERS ALONG 151-MILE TRUCE LINE CALLED ON SK PEOPLE TO REJECT PARK REGIME IN REFERENDUM.

4. CHINA

IN MESSAGE TO WORLD FREEDOM DAY RALLY, MARKING 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARRIVAL IN TAIWAN OF 14,000 CHINESE DEFECTORS AT END OF KOREAN WAR, CKS SAYS CONTINUING EXODUS OF REFUGEES FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES PROVES FLOODTIDE OF FREEDOM CANNOT BE SHUT OFF; "CRAVING FOR LIBERTY IS INHERENT IN MANKIND AND IS THE MAINSTREAM OF OUR ERA" (GLOBE).

5. PHILIPPINES

UPI'S KATE WEBB IN MANILA (S-N 1/23, ABRIDGED IN PHINQ) REPORTS MARCOS PLEDGE IN INTERVIEW WEDNESDAY TO RESTORE

PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY IF PEOPLE VOTE AGAINST HIS MARTIAL LAW REGIME IN PLEBISCITE NEXT MONTH. SAYS MARCOS SCOFFED AT "PRESS CLUB GOSSIP" THAT PEOPLE FEAR TO VOTE "NO"; FILIPINO DESCRIBED AS "NOT EASILY FRIGHTENED MAN." IF THERE ANY ABUSE OF POWER, MARCOS SAID "FILIPINO PEOPLE WOULD RISE UP." MARCOS ADDED THAT BLANK SHEET OF PAPER WOULD BE PROVIDED IN REFERENDUM, FOR FILS TO WRITE-IN GRIEVANCES.

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6. THAILAND

STUDENT GUNMEN KILLED NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER, WOUNDED BANGKOK POLICE CHIEF AND SIX OF HIS MEN DURING BATTLE WEDNESDAY NIGHT BETWEEN STUDENTS OF TWO VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS. SEVEN STUDENTS WOUNDED, TWO ARRESTED. TRADITIONAL GANG FIGHTS BETWEEN VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS NOW MORE FREQUENT, VIOLENT SINCE STUDENTS HELPED OVERTHROW MILITARY REGIME (AP, NYT).

NYT SPECIAL FROM BANGKOK SETS SCENE FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION SUNDAY, FIRST VOTE SINCE END OF MILITARY RULE IN 1973. NAMES OF 100-MEMBER SENATE APPOINTED BY OUTGOING PREMIER ALSO EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED. NOTES THERE IS SOME OPTIMISM THIS COULD BE THAILAND'S MOST SUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH STABLE, DEMOCRATIC GOVT, BUT CONSIDERABLE PESSIMISM IN SOME CIRCLES. SINCE POLITICAL PARTIES LEGALIZED IN OCTOBER, CAMPAIGN WORKERS, CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN COURTING POPULAR SUPPORT BY ALL MEANS, INCLUDING "DIRTY TRICKS." SEES PEOPLE FACING ELECTION WITH MIXTURE OF APATHY AND RESIGNATION, BECAUSE POLITICS SO CORRUPT, SO LONG, ALMOST ALL CANDIDATES SUSPECTED OF SEEKING OFFICE FOR PERSONAL GAIN.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

7. INDOCHINA

NYT'S GELB SEES EVERY INDICATION ADMIN REQUEST FOR MORE MIL AID WILL FAIL, SINCE KEY DEMOCRATS AND LIBERAL REPUBLICANS MAINTAIN US PUBLIC DOES NOT WANT TO SPEND MORE MONEY IN VN. QUOTES AIDES THAT PRES AND HAK BELIEVE COMMUNIST TAKEOVER IN VN WOULD OUTRAGE AMERICAN PEOPLE. ON PHILOSOPHICAL PLANE, HAK BELIEF IN FLEXIBILITY FOR PRES IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INVIOABILITY OF EXECUTIVE AGREEMENTS IS PITTED AGAINST CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE TO CUT SPENDING ABROAD AND CONCENTRATE ON DOMESTIC ECON ISSUES. GELB OPINES THAT POLITICAL FORTUNES OF SECSTATE AND SEN JACKSON ARE AT TURNING POINT. WITH HAK'S

PERSONAL PRESTIGE TIED TO PEACE IN VN, AIDES SAID
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HE WOULD TRY PIN BLAME FOR FAILURE THERE ON CONGRESS;
IN VIEW OF COLLEAGUES, JACKSON FACES CHOICE OF WHETHER
TO JOIN BULK OF DEMS ON VN ISSUE OR RISK POLITICAL
ISOLATION AS PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN APPROACHES. QUOTES
SEN MONDALE AND OTHER LEGISLATORS THAT HAK WILL "HURT
HIMSELF" ON HILL BY MAKING ISSUE OF MORE AID TO GVN;
SAYS JACKSON MADE "FIRST MOVE" BY STATING HE WAS INCLINED
TO VOTE AGAINST SUPPLEMENTAL.

GELB FINDS NO EVIDENCE OF DISSENT IN ADMIN ON ISSUE,
WHILE IN CONGRESS ATTITUDE IS MOSTLY NEGATIVE. QUOTES
SENS BYRD AND TOWER THAT MOST SENATORS TAKE DIM VIEW;
IN HOUSE, OTTINGER SAID "NO WAY" WHEN ASKED CHANCES
THAT SUPPLEMENTAL WOULD PASS, WHILE RHODES BELIEVES
CHANCES DEPEND UPON HOW STRONG CASE IS MADE. MANY
LEGISLATORS THINK EVIDENCE PRESENTED BY ADMIN WILL BE
LESS IMPORTANT THAN "VEHEMENCE" WITH WHICH CASE IS MADE.
ADMIN OFFICIALS SAY THEY WILL REMIND CONGRESS THAT
NVN HAS VIOLATED C-F AND GVN COULD RUN OUT OF AMMO,
AND QUOTE HAK THAT SUPPLEMENTAL IS VITAL TO SVN
SURVIVAL IN "PSYCHOLOGICAL SENSE," AND THAT CONGRESS
WOULD NOT CUT AID SINCE THAT WOULD MEAN ACCEPTING
RESPONSIBILITY FOR FALL OF SAIGON TO COMMUNISM.

GELB QUOTES HAK ASSOCIATES THAT HE INTENDS TO PUT
ISSUE IN TERMS OF WHETHER AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE
PREPARED TO STAND BY AND WATCH GVN COLLAPSE JUST AS
IT IS BEGINNING TO STAND ON ITS OWN. SAYS MONDALE
GAVE TYPICAL RESPONSE TO ARGUMENT: ADMIN KNOWS 300
MILLION WON'T REALLY DO ANYTHING TO PREVENT ULTIMATE
COLLAPSE OF GVN, AND IT IS JUST TRYING TO SHIFT
RESPONSIBILITY FOR BANKRUPT POLICY TO CONGRESS AND DEMS.

PHINQ WONDERS IF US WILL EVER GET ITSELF UNSTUCK FROM
VN TAR-BABY. SAYS PRES' RATIONALE FOR MORE MIL AID
TO SVN IS FAMILIAR: NVN AGGRESSION. COMMENTS THAT
BOTH SIDES BROKE C-F BEFORE INK WAS DRY, IMPOSSIBLE
TO KNOW WHO FIRED FIRST SHOT AND IT REALLY DOESN'T
MATTER. BELIEVES THAT AFTER 25 YEARS WE SHOULD RID
OURSELVES OF DELUSION US CAN IMPOSE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT
ON VIETS, AND BEST THING FOR VIET MORALE, AND FOR OUR'S
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IS THAT CONGRESS PROCEED TO EXTRICATE US FROM FUTILE
STRUGGLE.

LAT (1/23) BELIEVES PRES IS RIGHT IN THAT MORE ARMS

WOULD PROBABLY RAISE MORALE IN SVN AND STRENGTHEN FOR MOMENT SAIGON'S ASSISTANCE TO HANOI OFFENSIVE. BUT PRES HAS FAILED TO SATISFY MORE IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS: HE HAS NOT SHOWN WHY PRESENT FLOW OF ARMS IS NOT ENOUGH, HAS SUGGESTED NO LONG-RANGE LIMIT TO INDOCHINA AID, AND HAS FAILED TO PLACE VN IN LARGER PERSPECTIVE OF US GLOBAL PRIORITIES. OPINES THAT US HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH IN SEA, AND TO DO MORE WOULD RISK "IRRESPONSIBLE APPORTIONMENT" OF RESOURCES. NOTES THAT OVER 20-PCT OF ECON ASSISTANCE AND 70-PCT OF MIL AID GOES TO VN, CAMBODIA AND LAOS. SEES DEMAND FOR SUPPLEMENTAL AS PART OF BUILDING PRESSURE FOR

MORE US COMMITMENT. CITES AIR SUPPLY OF PP, REPORTED CONTINGENCY PLANS TO USE USAF FOR AIRLIFT IF NECESSARY, US RECON FLIGHTS OVER NVN, AND MEN AND EQUIPMENT IN THAILAND FOR CLOSE AIR SUPPORT. SAYS PRES' STATEMENT THAT HE WILL UNDERTAKE NO NEW INTERVENTION WITHOUT FOLLOWING LAW WAS RIGHT THING TO SAY; BUT SEES AMBIGUITIES IN LAW AND BELIEVES CLEARER STATEMENT FROM WH ON LIMITATIONS OF US COMMITMENT IN VN WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE REASSURING. CONCLUDES THAT RECORD SUGGESTS FURTHER US MEDDLING IN INDOCHINA CAN ONLY MAKE MATTERS WORSE.

8. CHINA

BARBARA GREENFIELD (IN LAST OF SERIES IN PHINQ) FINDS PEKING'S IMPERIAL PALACE, MING TOMBS, SUMMER PALACE AND HISTORICAL MUSEUM "BUT A SERIES OF STEPS LEADING TO THE GREATEST SPECTACULAR OF ALL -- THE GREAT WALL." OBSERVES AT END OF TOUR THAT CHINESE, DESPITE GENUINE FRIENDSHIP FOR VARIOUS WESTERN PEOPLES, ARE EXTREMELY DISTRUSTFUL, FIRMLY BELIEVE ALL PEOPLE EVENTUALLY WILL FORM SOCIALIST, THEN COMMUNIST SOCIETY. BUT FEELS CHINA, NOW AS ALWAYS, CAN TEACH REST OF WORLD GREAT DEAL: DESPITE COST TO INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM CHINA LEADS WAY IN PROTECTING CITIZENS AND GUARANTEERING UNCLASSIFIED

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CERTAIN QUALITY OF LIFE -- FOOD, CLOTHING, SHELTER, EDUCATION, HEALTH AND BURIAL. QUOTES CHIEF HOST THAT "CHINA MAY ALWAYS HAVE BEEN GREAT, BUT SHE WAS ALWAYS WEAK. NOW SHE CAN FEED HER OWN AND STAND ON HER OWN IN WORLD. AND THE CHINESE PEOPLE, NOT THE RULERS, DID IT AND GOD HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT."

CSM'S HARSCH OBSERVES THAT NOT ONLY DOES PRC HAVE NEW GOVT FOR FIRST TIME IN DECADE WITH ALL TOP POSTS FILLED, BUT, MORE IMPORTANT, THEY HAVE LARGELY BEEN FILLED BY CHOU'S "OLD MANDARINS." SAYS "RE-EMERGENCE" OF CHOU GROUP AT CENTER OF POWER IN PEKING IS PARTICULARLY COMFORTING TO US, SINCE NEW AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP WITH

PRC WAS BUILT LARGELY ON CHOU-HAK PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP.
NO ONE IN US COULD HAVE BEEN ENTIRELY SURE SINO-US
DIALOGUE COULD HAVE CONTINUED IF CHOU HAD BEEN TOPPLED.
HARSCH OBSERVES THAT "KISSINGER SCHOOL OF DIPLOMATS"
KNOWS CHOU, HAS WORKED COMFORTABLY WITH HIM, AND IS
CONFIDENT WORLD WILL CONTINUE THREE-CORNERED SO LONG
AS HE AND HIS FRIENDS DOMINATE PEKING POLITICS.

IN PRC DOMESTIC MATTERS, CHOU'S REIGN WOULD SEEM TO
MEAN CONCENTRATION ON LABOR DISCIPLINE AND INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT AT EXPENSE OF KIND OF PERIODIC POLITICAL
DISORDER MAO SEEMS TO LIKE. IN FOREIGN POLICY, IT

WOULD PRESUMABLY MEAN CAUTIOUS PURSUIT OF IMPROVED
RELATIONS WITH US, JAPAN AND WE, WITH PEKING CONTINUING
TO KEEP ITS DISTANCE FROM MOSCOW. IN SUM, SEEMS SAFE
CONCLUSION THAT OLDER, MORE SOPHISTICATED, MORE PRAGMATIC
MEMBERS OF CHOU LEADERSHIP GROUP HAVE RE-EMERGED
SUCCESSFULLY FROM INTERNAL POLITICAL TURMOIL OF LAST
DECADE. WESTERN DIPLOMAT WHO SAID, "CONFUCIUS WON,"
WAS OVERSIMPLIFYING. WHAT HAS EMERGED IS PROBABLY MORE
OF COMPROMISE BETWEEN RIVAL FACTIONS THAN DECISIVE
TRIUMPH OF ONE OVER THE OTHER. IN WEST, RESULT WOULD
PERHAPS BE CALLED COALITION GOVT.

S-N'S BRADSHER, IN HK (JAN 23), SEES PHENOMENON
OF TOP LEADERSHIP ECLIPSE IN BOTH PRC AND SOVIET,
ALTHOUGH IN NEITHER CASE IS THERE MUCH INDICATION
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OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN POLICIES INTERNALLY OR
IN RELATIONS WITH US. JUST AS BREZHNEV WAS FADED
FROM SCENE AMID REPORTS OF ILL HEALTH, MAO HAS BEEN
PUT ON SHELF OR AT LEAST RETIRED TO PROVINCIAL
SULKING AFTER FAILING TO DERAIL NPC. MAO HAS STAGED
COMEBACKS BEFORE, BUT IS NOW 81; BREZHNEV LACKS
CHAIRMAN'S GIGANTIC INSTITUTIONAL STANDING.

ACCORDING BRADSHER, SIGNALS OF MAO'S FADING AWAY
HAD BEEN COMING FOR LONG TIME, AS CHOU MANAGED TO
CONTAIN THEN WEAKEN RADICAL ATTACKS. SAYS
"FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES" BETWEEN CHINA AND US THAT
CHOU REPORTED TO NPC EXIST INDEPENDENT OF CHINA'S
POLITICAL STRUGGLE, "WHICH HAS NOW TURNED AGAINST
MAO." MAO'S ECLIPSE MEANS PRIMARILY THAT CHOU
"WILL HAVE LESS REASON TO MODIFY" POLICIES HE HAS
BEEN FOLLOWING, SO CHINA IS BASICALLY UNAFFECTED.
BUT CHINA MIGHT FEEL EFFECTS OF BREZHNEV'S ECLIPSE.

WP'S GREENWAY, IN HK REPORTS ANALYSTS WHO SPECIALIZE
IN SUBTLETIES OF CHINESE RHETORIC HAVE NOTICED WHAT
MAY BE SLIGHT SOFTENING IN PEKING'S POSITION TOWARD

SOVIET. CHOU'S CALL ON MOSCOW, IN FEB 13 NPC SPEECH, TO "SIT DOWN AND NEGOTIATE HONESTLY, DO SOMETHING TO SOLVE A BIT OF THE PROBLEM," IS TAKEN BY SOME HK CHINA-WATCHERS AS HINT PEKING MIGHT BE WILLING TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH SOVIET IF MOSCOW WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE GESTURE TOWARD SOLVING AT LEAST "BIT" OF PROBLEM ALONG SINO-SOVIET BORDER, RATHER THAN INSISTING SOVIETS ACCEPT ALL CHINA'S CONDITIONS FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

NOTES CHOU'S LANGUAGE ABOUT SOVIET WAS UNQUESTIONABLY

MILDER THAN WORDS HE USED IN 1973 TO PARTY CONGRESS. CITES CHOU'S NPC REMARKS THAT IMPROVED SINO-US RELATIONS DEPEND ON TERMS OF SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE; AND NOTES THAT IN RECENT MONTHS, CHINESE OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN TELLING VISITORS THEY HAVE BEEN UNHAPPY WITH PACE OF SINO-US DETENTE.

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9. BURMA

AFTER SPENDING TEN WEEKS IN BURMA, RUSSEL BRINES (LAT, 1/19) WRITES THAT OUTBURST OF RIOTOUS ANGER THERE LAST MONTH WAS INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCE OF MOST DRASTIC SOCIAL-ENGINEERING IN NON-COMMUNIST ASIA. FOR TWELVE YEARS NE WIN TRIED TO IMPOSE MODIFIED COMMUNIST-STYLE SOCIALISM ON FIERCELY INDEPENDENT BURMESE, BUT DECREPITUDE OF RANGOON AND PERIODIC ANTI-GOVT RIOTS CONFIRM THAT EXPERIMENT FAILED LONG AGO.

AMONG OTHER CONSEQUENCES, BURMA, ONCE "RICE BOWL" FOR POORER NEIGHBORS, CANNOT HELP EASE GROWING FOOD PROBLEMS IN ASIA. IN FACT, BURMA DID LESS TO INCREASE FOOD OUTPUT IN PAST 12 YEARS OF EXPERIMENT THAN MEKONG DELTA FARMERS DID DURING HEIGHT OF VN WAR, AND RICE EXPORTS NOW TOTAL LESS THAN ONE-SIXTH PRE-WAR LEVEL.

BRINES ATTRIBUTES EXTREME FAILURE IN AGRICULTURE TO TYPICAL AMBITION OF LDC LEADERS TO ACHIEVE NATIONAL PRESTIGE BY BUILDING MODERN INDUSTRY, SYMBOLIZED BY STEEL MILL, AND TO STIFLING OF FARMERS UNDER MARXIST PLANNING BY INTELLECTUALS WHO LOOKED TO MOSCOW FOR HELP IN OVERTHROWING WESTERN COLONIALISM. ALSO, GUB DECIDES EVERY MAJOR POLICY WITH ONE EYE ON PEKING, WHICH LEADS RANGOON TO REFUSE MOST AID AND ALL FOREIGN INVESTMENT. NE WIN TRIES TO ATTAIN ECONOMIC VIABILITY FOR BURMA ON OWN RESOURCES, WITH OBSOLETE COMPLEX OF SMALL INDUSTRIES. SYSTEM MAY PRODUCE CHEAP BUS FARES,

BUT LEAVES UNDERPAID WORKERS VULNERABLE TO WORLD
INFLATION AND ANGRY WITH GOVT.

10. HONG KONG

RUSHER WRITES FROM HK (IN PHINQ) THAT RARE CITY SHOULD
NEVER HAVE COME INTO BEING IN FIRST PLACE, ITS LIKE
WILL NOT BE SEEN AGAIN. HK IS UNIQUE PRODUCT OF
UNREPEATABLE HISTORY, OF DAYS WHEN BRITANNIA RULED
WAVES AND DEEMED IT HER DESTINY TO CIVILIZE. GLANCE
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AT MAP (OR HISTORY OF WW II) SHOWS PERILOUS EXPOSURE
TO ANY MEDIUM-SIZED POWER ON MAINLAND DETERMINED TO
TAKE IT; BUT FACT IS, HK REMAINS AS BRITISH CROWN
COLONY, WITH BRITISH PRESIDING ALMOST INVISIBLY,
EXCEPT IN NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS OF THEIR DOINGS. ONE
KNOWS SUN WILL SET ON BRITISH EMPIRE LONG BEFORE IT SETS
ON CHINA, BUT IN HK, AT LEAST, BRITAIN IS WELL, AND
AMAZING CITY WILL LINGER YET AWHILE BEFORE IT SINKS
FOREVER BACK INTO VASTNESS OF CHINA.

11. KOREA

IN NYT LETTER, REPLYING TO HANCHO KIM PRAISE OF
"KOREAN CAMELOT," SUGWON KANG (POLITICAL SCIENCE
PROF AT HARTWICK COLLEGE) CALLS PARK'S "KOREAN DEMOCRACY"
MOCKERY OF RULE OF LAW, GROSS AFFRONT TO HUMAN DIGNITY.
CRITICIZES KIM FOR NOT KEEPING UP WITH EVENTS DURING
TWENTY-YEAR ABSENCE FROM KOREA.

FREEDOM HOUSE DIRECTOR SUSSMAN, IN LETTER TO CSM (1/20),
URGES THAT AMERICANS, JAPANESE ASSOCIATES OF KOREA,
WHO BENEFIT FROM FREE PRESS, "SPEEDILY CONDEMN" ROKG
ATTACKS ON DONG-A ILBO, CALL ON PARK TO END HARASSMENT.

12. GENERAL

RECENT REVELATIONS OF ASIA CORRUPTION REMIND LAT'S
ELEGANT IN HK (1/20) OF HACKNEYED JEST, "THE ROYAL
HONG KONG POLICE FORCE IS THE BEST POLICE FORCE MONEY
CAN BUY IN ASIA." ADMITS THIS VIRTUALLY TRUE, SINCE
HK POLICE ARE BEST IN ASIA, WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION
OF SINGAPORE, JAPAN; AND MANY OF THEM ARE "FOR SALE"
TO LAW BREAKERS. STILL, FINDS HK RESTRAINED IN COMPARISON
TO OTHER PARTS OF ASIA WHERE GRAFT IS WAY OF LIFE.

APOLOGISTS ARGUE CORRUPTION IS OIL THAT LUBRICATES
ASIAN SOCIAL MACHINERY, CRITICS CHARGE IT GUMS UP
WORKS. BUT HK IS TRYING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
SAYS CHEERFULLY CYNICAL ASIANS KNOW THOSE WHO HAVE
POWER TO STOP GRAFT ALSO BENEFIT FROM IT. NOTES MARCOS

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EXERCISES EMERGENCY POWER TO STAMP OUT CORRUPTION,
AMONG OTHER THINGS, BUT MANILA CUSTOMS IS SELECTIVE
SIEVE WHICH LETS "RIGHT PEOPLE" PASS UNHARASSED WITH
REFRIGERATORS, TV SETS AND DIAMONDS. IN VNDONESIA,
PERTAMINA CREATES OWN SEPARATE WORLD AND JAPAN HAS
JUST SEEN TANAKA RESIGN IN PLAYOUT OF WATERGATE II.
EVEN IN PRC, DURING GPCR, RED GUARDS CHARGED OFFICIALS
IMPORTED LUXURY GOODS FROM HK, DUTY FREE.

ATTRIBUTES PERVASIVE CORRUPTION IN ASIA TO TRADITION
IN WHICH CONFUCIAN OFFICIALS WERE ENCOURAGED TO BUY
POSITIONS, THEN RECOUP THEIR FORTUNE THROUGH GRAFT.
NOT REMARKABLE THAT THEY CONSIDERED PUBLIC OFFICE
PRIVATE OPPORTUNITY -- FOR GRAFT -- RATHER THAN PUBLIC
TRUST. QUOTES ASIAN LAWYER THAT "MOST PEOPLE EITHER
SHRUG THEIR SHOULDERS AT THE INEVITABLE OR PLAN TO GET
INTO THE ACT THEMSELVES." INGERSOLL

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED BUDAPEST.

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EA PRESS SUMMARY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE018053
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/P:STAFF:PP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750028-0981
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750189/baaaagos.tel
Line Count: 566
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 11
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JAN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JAN 2003 by RicharJA>; APPROVED <17 FEB 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
To: ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
MOSCOW
TRSY
BIEN HOA
CAN THO
DANANG

HONG KONG
NHA TRANG
JEC PARIS INFO USSAGE NKP
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COGARD
BUDAPEST BY POUCH
XMT SUVA
RANGOON

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006